

National Housing Act

available only in areas with a housing content before or after clearance.

• (3:50 p.m.)

Those amendments also allowed the statutory limitation to be increased from \$50 million to \$100 million. Also, Mr. Chairman, there will be coming before us a bill which seeks the approval of this House to a further increase in the funds available for urban renewal to \$300 million, an increase of \$200 million. Passage of this bill will ensure that Canada's urban renewal program, booming away, will not be restricted for lack of Federal funds.

In this connection we should look at the experience in the United States. I compliment the Government for asking for these additional funds. We must never get into a position such as that in the U.S.A., where the urban renewal administration has run out of capital grant funds and has been unable to continue these programs, thus creating serious problems for the cities. These additional funds are a reconfirmation of this Government's support in regard to financial assistance to cities in their efforts to utilize their central business districts, which provide jobs and the taxes for services required in the residential areas.

If I may, Mr. Chairman, I would again refer to the City of Hamilton for a moment. Let us remember that only \$3.2 million was used for urban renewal in 1963. The City of Hamilton has already benefited, through the amendments to the National Housing Act made by this Government, by commitments by the Federal Government of more than \$4,756,000 specifically for urban renewal in the north end renewal project in that city. This would not have been possible had it not been for the amendments that were before the House last June.

Again, referring to the history the hon. Member for Qu'Appelle was mentioning, the first Federal contribution for an urban renewal study was made in June, 1955 to the City of Toronto. This study became the pilot project in what has become an important part of our urban renewal experience. Mr. Chairman, this took place two years before the change in Government. The hon. Member for Qu'Appelle also made reference to his Government's readiness to move an amendment which we moved last year, which I think is a lot of rot, Mr. Chairman. On December 2, 1960 Royal Assent was given to an amendment under which the statutory limit on contributions out of the Consolidated

[Mr. Macaluso.]

Revenue Fund to assist in urban redevelopment, as I stated earlier, was raised by the Conservative regime from \$25 million to \$50 million. I notice that all the hon. Member for Qu'Appelle does is to speak in generalities and not in specifics of the proposals he makes. Again referring to the hon. Member for Qu'Appelle's statement, he refers to metropolitan planning and says:

The day is over when any city thinks it can set up a parks board to plan parks; that a city can set up a transportation committee to plan transportation in the city; that it can set up a body to deal with education and plan for new schools—

Those are very interesting remarks by a party that is so concerned with provincial rights. With respect to metropolitan planning, the hon. Member for Qu'Appelle suggested that urban renewal should be undertaken as part of the over-all planning of the municipality concerned. Certainly it has been abundantly clear to me and to others that the 1964 amendments to the National Housing Act provide that an urban renewal scheme must be prepared before an urban renewal project can be implemented. An urban renewal scheme is, of course, the municipal plan for dealing with the situation, an over-all plan with which the Province is in agreement. Certainly Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation is authorized to assist the Provinces and the Municipalities to redevelop and rehabilitate urban renewal areas in accordance with an official plan.

Any urban renewal scheme will specify the buildings and the works that are affected, will detail where acquisition and clearance are required, and will make provision for replacing displaced families and individuals. As the hon. Minister stated earlier, "The heart and soul of the neighbourhood involved is examined by municipal architects, economists and planners". Certainly I disagree with the hon. Member for Qu'Appelle that there is no over-all planning and that there is such a gap in the present National Housing Act legislation. We in Canada cannot afford either to mark time or to fall short of our highest potentials in a field as important as housing and urban development.

I have certain suggestions and recommendations to make to the Minister, Mr. Chairman. One of these deals with relocation assistance in urban renewal areas. Families have to be relocated because of an urban renewal scheme passed by the municipality, passed by the Provincial Government and approved by the Federal Government, and have to find other